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LETTER DATED 29 MAY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 26 May 1996 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning violations of Iraqi airspace by United States aircraft.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex, the letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 25 May 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I should like to inform you that United States warplanes operating from bases in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are continuing to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq and are engaging in acts of reconnaissance, breaking the sound barrier and dropping heat flares over public and private property in the north and south of Iraq, causing damage and spreading alarm among the civilian population.

Since 13 May 1996, these aircraft have carried out their violations of the airspace of the Republic of Iraq from military bases in Jordan. Two United States military formations each composed of two aircraft took off from Jordan and entered Iraqi airspace south of the 32nd parallel, crossing through Saudi airspace. At the same time, a United States AWACS aircraft overflew the area close to the Iraqi border south of the Ar'ar region inside Saudi Arabian airspace.

I request you to intercede with these States, pursuant to your responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations, in order that they should halt these violations of the airspace of the Republic of Iraq and not repeat these acts, which constitute serious infractions of the Charter of the United Nations and of the norms of international law.

The Republic of Iraq places full international liability on these States jointly for these hostile acts for the material and other damage that they have caused and continue to cause, and for the threats to security and the economy that they have posed and continue to pose for the people and the Republic of Iraq.

Pursuant to the principle of international liability, I reaffirm the legally established right of the Republic of Iraq to compensation for the material and other damage suffered by its people as a result of such actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq